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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 9 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

later: Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)
(Vice-President)

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(a) Venue of sessions of the Governing Council

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

(a) ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (DP/1993/11)

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(e) NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS (continued) (DP/1993/15)

(f) MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (continued) (DP/1993/16)

1. Mr. KONG (Department of Development Support and Management Services) said that in recent years growing awareness of the key role to be played by Governments in creating and maintaining conditions conducive to development success had led to an increased focus on basic administrative reforms throughout the developing world. To ensure that the United Nations continued to play a role in that field, the Secretary-General had assigned responsibility for the matter to the newly formed Department of Development Support and Management Services.

2. Over the years, the United Nations public administration, public financing and development planning programmes had made a major contribution to the field. In 1992, for example, one third of total project delivery had concerned activities in implementation of the public administration and development policy. Considerable success had been achieved in training public administrators and helping them to create the necessary institutions and policy frameworks. However, the task ahead was immense, as Governments increasingly realized the need to improve their own functioning. The Department had therefore welcomed the establishment by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) of its Management Development Programme in 1988. It was felt that, by combining the Department's extensive experience and technical capabilities with the financial resources available under the programme, great progress could be made in strengthening assistance in governance and public administration, financial management and accounting, and economic management and development planning.

3. Although a limited degree of collaboration had been achieved, much remained to be done in order to reach the Secretary-General's goal of maximum integration and coordination of United Nations development assistance services. As the new Department had been established, collaboration should be strengthened by institutionalizing its relationship with the programme. He looked forward to a fruitful dialogue with UNDP on the Management Development Programme and would advise the Council of the outcome in 1994.

4. Mr. Byung Yong SOH (Republic of Korea) said that, under the newly emerging international order, UNDP had adopted a new concept and methodology in its development activities, with human development and environment as the priority themes and the programme approach, capacity-building and national execution as the new modalities of the development process. While he acknowledged the

(Mr. Byung Yong Soh, Republic of Korea)

efforts of UNDP to use its comparative advantages to extend its activities in order to meet the demands of developing countries in different sectors and to include the democratization processes under way in Africa and Central America, he was concerned that those activities were spread too thinly over too many areas, given the limited resources available. His delegation therefore believed that core development issues should always be given higher priority, while other activities should be conducted as supplementary measures.

5. The increased assistance given by UNDP for environmental protection was commendable and he welcomed the launching of the Capacity 21 initiative. He hoped to see efforts in that sector continuing throughout the fifth programming cycle. UNDP could also play a major role in restructuring the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which needed to be closely coordinated with Capacity 21.

6. Human development was a core issue in the development process and it was encouraging to see that most of the fifth-cycle programmes had a clearly stated human development focus. That focus should be maintained and strengthened through regular review of the programmes. The importance of sustainable human development was also reaffirmed in the Human Development Report, 1993. His delegation was particularly interested in the subject of women in development and, according to the Report, women still suffered from significant inequalities in education, jobs, political rights and health care. Although two thirds of country programmes in the fifth cycle included the issue of women and development, few countries had adopted a systematic approach to it and he hoped that it would be given much higher priority in UNDP development activities.

7. He welcomed the common interpretation of the programme approach adopted in April 1993 and hoped that its application to country programmes would be further expanded. It was encouraging that the implementation rate of national execution had risen from 30 per cent in 1991 to 37 per cent in 1992 and United Nations agencies should continue to provide technical support services in order to ensure that the trend continued. Decentralization was vital for improving the efficiency of country programmes, but the delegation of greater authority to field offices meant that closer monitoring and evaluation were required. With regard to restructuring, the goals to be pursued were streamlined governance and a sound funding mechanism. Reasonable criteria should be developed reflecting the opinion of developing countries as a whole.

8. His own country was expected to assume the status of net donor country towards the end of the fifth cycle. It had already been conducting modest financial cooperation programmes with developing countries and expected those activities to expand following the creation of the Korean International Cooperation Agency in 1991. It was vital to ensure continuing technology transfer to the developing countries and the United Nations system had an important role to play as a mediator in that context.

9. Mr. TSERING (Observer for Bhutan) said that while bilateral assistance in his country had increased in recent times, UNDP's level of assistance had not. Since UNDP had increased its mandates, but not its resources, it was to be hoped that the organization would not spread its resources too thinly, nor cut back programmes, in particular, in the least developed countries. While his

(Mr. Tsering, Observer, Bhutan)

delegation recognized the need to provide urgent humanitarian and peace-keeping assistance, long-term development needs should not be overlooked.

10. If the restructuring of the United Nations institutions under way was to have the desired impact, a comprehensive view of the role of all multilateral development agencies, including specialized agencies and financial institutions, was necessary. Despite significant efforts to decentralize its operations and to simplify procedures, UNDP reporting, approval and other procedures remained highly centralized and required further simplification with regard to national execution. While efforts to reduce support costs were commendable, increasing administrative costs should not be charged to projects. By keeping administrative and project costs separate, it was possible to assess the true cost of administration and keep it within proper limits.

11. The role of non-governmental organizations should always be supportive of and supplementary to government efforts. NGOs should have their own solid grass-roots foundation and not depend on Governments or external agencies for their existence. Use of external NGOs, in particular those with professional and specialized skills, should be increased.

12. Mr. KOZUSNIK (Austria) said that, although the optimism engendered by the fundamental global changes in recent years had not been fully justified, there was a growing awareness that any concept of sustainable international security must entail consideration of global issues such as sustainable development, population, migration and drug control.

13. His delegation welcomed the concept of the country strategy note, the common interpretation of the programme approach, the programme support document, the enhanced focus on national execution and capacity-building, the efforts to harmonize the programming cycles, rules and procedures of relevant United Nations bodies and the UNDP initiative to develop system-wide approaches to monitoring and evaluation. It also supported the opening of Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative posts to members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, and was in favour of the establishment of integrated offices. Those initiatives should be strengthened by ongoing broad reforms in the governance of operational activities, and his delegation expected early adoption of the reform package negotiated under the chairmanship of the Second Committee on the basis of the Nordic Project. The reforms would enhance the overall credibility of the United Nations development system and would also have a favourable impact on UNDP.

14. The most significant development in the philosophy of UNDP had been its increased focus on people. The consensus that development must serve the individual had had a profound impact on the concept of development cooperation and, together with the incorporation of environmental considerations, had helped to shape the concept of sustainable human development. He commended the Human Development Report, which had helped to strengthen that concept by focusing on different aspects of development each year. The publication was widely respected in his country and the independence of its writers and researchers should be carefully maintained. The most recent edition of the Report stressed the importance of participation of the people, a concept which his country believed to be central to its own democratic political process as well as to development cooperation.

(Mr. Kozusnik, Austria)

15. The future role of UNDP within the United Nations development system centred on the issue of comparative advantage. The Administrator had distinguished between functional and substantive comparative advantage. The functional advantage of UNDP derived from its traditional role in the field, its expertise in dealing with Governments, donors and other bodies, and its experience in designing and delivering technical assistance, while its substantive advantage was rooted in its ability to strengthen national capacity and in its multisectoral mandate.

16. The many comparative advantages UNDP enjoyed would certainly justify an extension in its activities. Possible future UNDP involvement could include electoral assistance, assistance for the newly independent States, migration and displacement, reintegration of returning refugees, a multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS, and drug control. All those activities should be carried out in the context of overall UNDP support for sustainable human development and in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies.

17. Every effort should be made to ensure the smooth functioning of the agency support cost arrangements. While it was too early to pass judgement on the current system, emphasis should be placed on continuing consultation between UNDP and the various implementing agencies so as to eliminate administrative shortcomings and achieve maximum efficiency.

18. On the matter of environment, his Government wholeheartedly supported the Capacity 21 initiative, which would provide support for strengthening national capacity to achieve sustainable development.

19. In a world where annual military expenditure was in the region of $1 trillion, it was questionable to speak of scarce resources. The problem was rather one of resource allocation. Yet the lack of available resources was a reality which might force UNDP to reassess future activities, since programmes could be sustained at current levels only if the present pattern of decreasing contributions was reversed.

20. Mr. DAIDJ-BAGHDAD (Algeria) said that there was a marked contrast between UNDP's excellent record, on the one hand, and the disturbing prospects, particularly in respect of resources, on the other. The current international economic situation was characterized by urgent and complex challenges; in the midst of those upheavals, UNDP's mandate and functions remained fully valid. However, because of its unique advantages and almost universal field presence, UNDP was being requested to intervene in areas of uncertain validity which could distance it from its original purpose of responding to the needs and priorities of developing countries, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 47/199. UNDP had to face new demands including an increase in the number of beneficiary countries, at a time of sharp decline in resources. The international community, and above all the developed countries, must respect the commitments made under various international agreements and strategies if UNDP was to continue to perform its central role.

21. The restructuring process of the United Nations and the proposed changes in operational activities for development came at a very appropriate time. His delegation hoped that innovative financing mechanisms would be established which would lead to a substantial increase in resources and the development of a

(Mr. Daidj-Baghdad, Algeria)

stable, regular and predictable financial basis, the only guarantee of effective action. At the same time, the reallocation of resources made necessary by the emergence of new beneficiary countries should not be carried out to the detriment of the programmes and activities traditionally intended for developing countries.

22. His delegation attached particular importance to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and noted with satisfaction the Administrator's commitment to accord priority to UNDP's efforts to benefit Africa. It had to be recognized that so far no tangible results had been achieved. Many African countries had embarked on a process of economic reform, often at high social cost, at a time of crushing external debt and negative terms of trade. In that situation UNDP must help to establish a favourable economic and social environment by calling on traditional donors and also by helping beneficiary countries to implement their economic reform programmes in a flexible manner, while alleviating social costs, and by supporting regional and subregional integration efforts.

23. Nearly a year after the establishment of Capacity 21, few concrete results had been attained. The resources pledged amounted to barely 18 per cent of the initial objective, even though there seemed to have been broad consensus about the objectives of Capacity 21, and the scale of the needs to be met. It was to be hoped that the problems encountered were those associated with the beginning of any new process and would soon be overcome.

24. The advantages of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) were indisputable; it should therefore be an integral part of harmonious development and not simply a special activity which development organizations conducted outside their normal development frameworks. However, TCDC would function better if the conditions of the world economy stabilized and improved. Since it aimed to use the local capacities of developing countries, it could prove to be a very effective means of achieving the objective of self-sufficiency. A programme of action should be formulated to make TCDC a modality which had to be taken into account in any development programme. TCDC must be given an operational framework; first, through a strengthening of the mechanism of the exchange of information and then, through a more sustained mobilization of resources to finance the projects selected.

25. The Human Development Report 1993 was less controversial than previous reports; however, if it was to be a constructive and well-founded document, a stricter and more reliable methodology must be developed.

26. The Management Development Programme was extremely valuable since the improvement of management capacities was a prerequisite for all development. However, all such programmes must be formulated on the basis of the priorities identified by the beneficiary countries themselves. Since all countries were different, it was pointless to seek to impose a management model, and the credibility of the programme could be undermined.

27. For some time there had been a sharp erosion in multilateral cooperation. Development problems had become so complex, however, that such cooperation must be revived through innovative and sustained initiatives on the part of all concerned.

28. Mr. SY (Organization of African Unity (OAU)) said that over the past decade poverty had intensified in many African countries as a result of the adverse international economic environment and unfavourable internal factors, notably inadequate economic policies, poor management of resources and controversial ideological orientation. The rigid structure of African economies was partly responsible for the low impact of structural adjustment programmes. For the next decade, the growth projection for the continent, excluding North Africa, was highly unfavourable; assistance from the international community would need to be reinforced by national efforts in order to improve the level of living of the people.

29. OAU commended UNDP's efforts to facilitate accelerated and sustained economic growth and development within the context of Agenda 21, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, sustainable development, human development and resource mobilization. At the same time, it underscored the significance of regional economic integration for the long-term sustained economic development of the continent.

30. The importance of subregional and continental integration in Africa had been well articulated in the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act in 1980. The African Economic Community (AEC), established in 1991, served as the umbrella for several subregional integration schemes. OAU welcomed UNDP's financial and technical support for those regional integration arrangements, including AEC. The integration of the small markets of many African countries was a precondition for meaningful industrialization in a highly competitive global economy, and would enhance their bargaining position in the world economy, especially in respect of financial and technical assistance for integration and development.

31. OAU recognized the financial limitations of African economic integration arrangements as a result of poor funding by member States of those groups, largely because of their prolonged recession and lack of political will. It would welcome increased financial and technical support from the world community. Financial assistance was needed for the development of infrastructure, industrialization and agricultural development. Better communications were essential to allow trade expansion among member States. As to technical assistance, OAU urged UNDP to increase its assistance to AEC and to extend its cooperation in the area of infrastructural development.

32. The existence of too many intergovernmental organizations could be counter-productive for rapid economic growth and development. OAU therefore recommended a rationalization of their objectives and streamlining of their functions in order to avoid waste of resources.

33. The primary forces for economic integration were the member States themselves; their political will needed to be sustained as integration progressed. The long-term benefits of economic integration would be of tremendous advantage for the entire continent. More sacrifices would have to be made in terms of financial contributions and policy changes to achieve that goal. Adequate skilled manpower was a prerequisite for the meaningful function of the institutions of integration schemes; OAU urged UNDP to increase its support for capacity-building and for regional integration schemes. Such support would also assist in the optimum utilization of resources.

(Mr. Sy, OAU)

34. OAU was currently involved in efforts to create a political and economic environment that would favour the early attainment of the objectives of African countries; that would involve, in particular, the peaceful settlement of disputes, economic integration and peaceful transition to democracy. OAU hoped that UNDP would be on its side in that endeavour.

35. Mr. THONG (Viet Nam) said that the current session was taking place at a very critical juncture when profound changes continued to take place in the world; the development challenge had assumed wider dimensions and much greater urgency, particularly for the developing countries, many of which had been searching for new opportunities and avenues of development. Over the years, UNDP had proved its vitality in providing effective development assistance; his delegation therefore noted with the utmost concern the significant decline in the already meagre financial means of UNDP. The international community should strike an appropriate balance between the agenda for peace and the imperative agenda for development. His delegation strongly appealed to donor countries to increase their contributions to UNDP.

36. Capacity 21 deserved a greater response from the donor community; his delegation urged that stronger commitments be made. It fully supported UNDP's activities in helping to promote regional economic integration efforts in various parts of the world. His delegation hoped that UNDP's contribution in the region of Asia and the Pacific would be further strengthened, particularly since the general environment in that region had become increasingly favourable over the past few years.

37. UNDP's assistance in the ongoing fourth country programme played a very important role in Viet Nam's reform and renovation process and had already brought about significant results. At a time of exceptionally adverse international conditions, Viet Nam valued particularly UNDP's assistance.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/199

38. Mr. MATTHEWS (Director, Policy Division, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation (BPPE)) said that in response to the request, in paragraph 51 of General Assembly resolution 47/199, for a yearly progress report on measures taken and to be taken to implement that resolution, the Council had before it the introduction to the annual report of the Administrator for 1992 (DP/1993/10). A substantial part of that document, in particular paragraphs 15 to 27, related to action taken to implement the resolution.

39. UNDP was fully committed to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199, which built on the landmark resolution 44/211 on operational activities. The Council had taken a number of decisions towards that end and the Secretariat had endeavoured to operationalize them; its efforts had begun in 1990, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/211. The process had been time-consuming and occasionally frustrating. However, it had to be borne in mind that General Assembly resolutions were addressed to the United Nations system as a whole and organic and hierarchic arrangements were often weak or even absent. Reaching agreement on the definition of terms, operational guidelines and procedures, as well as new approaches and relationships, was not easy in a system as diverse and complex as that of the United Nations.

(Mr. Matthews)

40. UNDP had responded to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 both collectively and individually. It had been an active participant in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) machinery, notably the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions, and in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. It had also cooperated closely with the Department for Economic and Social Development and was continuing to cooperate with the three new departments which had replaced it. It continued to provide substantial support to the Resident Coordinator function, including the administration of the Resident Coordinators who, in virtually all cases, were UNDP's Resident Representatives.

41. At the same time, through other specific activities, especially country programming, UNDP had endeavoured to bring both the letter and the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 into everything it did.

42. Ms. LØJ (Denmark) speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that General Assembly resolution 47/199 provided an important basis for revitalizing the United Nations development system. Given its excellent contacts to Governments and local authorities and thorough knowledge of the work of other United Nations organizations, UNDP could play a significant role in the preparation of a country strategy note. In addition, UNDP's extensive field network and experience in administering the programme approach concept would be helpful in preparing country strategy notes.

43. UNDP should revise its guidelines for promoting national execution to ensure a gradually increasing role for national authorities and other entities in more countries each year. Decentralization was clearly a prerequisite for a meaningful change in national execution and the programme approach and should be accompanied by transparency and accountability in field activities. Resident Coordinators should be selected on the basis of quality and should also be recruited outside the UNDP system. In this regard, UNDP should continue to explore ways to widen the selection process with its partners in the Joint Consultative Group on Policies. Furthermore, Resident Coordinators should use the authority given to them by resolution 47/199 to coordinate effectively and where appropriate, to propose amendments to country programmes. Common premises should continue to be increased as they made it easier for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to utilize their respective comparative advantages and complement each other to the highest degree. Given the budget problems which several United Nations organizations faced, the cost-effectiveness of field representatives had important implications.

44. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that UNDP was the obvious organization to promote the development of country strategy notes in recipient countries which wanted them. His delegation urged UNDP to make clear and strenuous efforts to develop such notes. Secondly, as the UNDP country representative was often the representative for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Food Programme, UNDP, in particular, should encourage decentralization of authority in the field and continue to raise the quality of its Resident Representatives. Thirdly, UNDP should ensure that the guidelines for programme approach and national execution were implemented effectively for the United Nations as a whole. Finally, UNDP's excellent procedural, accounting and auditing systems provided a useful basis upon which to build more harmonized and simplified procedures.

(Mr. Barnett, United Kingdom)

45. It was important to make clear that UNDP Resident Representatives at field level provided feedback to the Council since, ultimately, resolution 47/199 was meaningless unless it led to a better United Nations performance on the ground. Improved training would help to raise the level of teamwork in the field. Resident Coordinators should not hesitate to use the increased powers given to them by resolution 47/199 and should draw to the attention of the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council any problems relating to coordination.

46. Mr. JASINSKI (Poland) said that the streamlining of procedures should not apply only to the United Nations system, but also to donor and recipient Governments as well. All parties concerned, including governing bodies, should join in a continuous exercise for improving the programming and delivery of technical cooperation activities. He stressed that development activities, especially those involving human and sustainable development, required cooperation and interdependence. Finally, he pointed out that paragraph 48 of resolution 47/199, which called on the United Nations system to assist "countries undergoing deep economic and social reform," could be applied specifically to UNDP.

47. Mr. GALVEZ (Peru) said that UNDP had contributed invaluable assistance to Peru in the areas of employment, infrastructure, structural reform, privatization and social development. Coordination and the development of a global plan were of paramount importance to the future of United Nations activities. In response to the new challenges of the post-cold-war era, UNDP, with its multisectoral focus, and consequent flexibility, had proved ideally suited to deal with emergency situations that necessitated quick provision of funds and rapid logistical deployment; it was likewise ideally suited to assist countries in the process of economic and political transformation. UNDP had won the esteem and confidence of Governments and communities through broad experience in the field, and its management capacities had proved equal to such new tasks as democracy-building, election-monitoring and peace-keeping. But the global focus on human sustainable development must be responsive to the varying needs and characteristics of individual regions and countries.

48. UNDP had a strong capacity to mobilize resources in regions like Latin America where the use of seed capital, or the multiplier effect, had been highly effective. UNDP actually administered, however, by way of bilateral and multilateral resources much greater sums than were indicated by indicative planning figures (IPFs) cited in country programmes.

49. While attaining the maximum level of national execution would facilitate sustainable development, flexibility was crucial at the current transitional phase, because many nations, lacking the capacity for autonomous management, risked slowing down the inflow of development funds. The new information technologies could assist decentralization of decision-making capacities.

50. Mr. WRIGHT (Canada) said that his delegation endorsed the country strategy note and hoped that many recipient Governments would recognize that new tool as a means to enhance the development impact of operational activities. The field committees referred to in General Assembly resolution 47/199 were preferable to a single United Nations development organization at the field level and would facilitate policy and programme coordination and technical dialogue. His

(Mr. Wright, Canada)

delegation was concerned that little action had been taken thus far to establish field committees in countries where United Nations activities justified them. It was hoped that headquarters would instruct the Resident Coordinators concerned to establish and operationalize those new committees. Finally, his delegation appealed to UNDP to accelerate action in the areas of national execution, training, the adoption of the programme approach and decentralization.

51. Mr. LUNDBERG (Sweden) said that effective coordination was urgently needed to halt the fragmentation of United Nations development activities. He strongly endorsed the use of the country strategy note as a coordinating tool at the field level, and added that the Nordic delegation particularly welcomed UNDP efforts to enlist support for the country strategy note from the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and the Joint Consultative Group on Policies (JCGP).

52. Mr. MORALES-CARBALLO (Cuba) said that he appreciated UNDP efforts to implement resolution 47/199 and welcomed the move towards national execution and decentralization, in particular the decision to authorize Resident Representatives to approve projects of up to $1 million.

53. Mr. MATTHEWS (Director, Policy Division, Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation (BPPE)) assured the Council that the Secretariat was working hand in hand with partners in the United Nations system - in particular with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) - to alert recipient Governments to the paragraphs of resolution 47/199 concerning the country strategy note. When requested, it was also assisting Governments in developing their country strategy notes. The Secretary-General, DPCSD, the UNDP Administrator, and the executive heads of JCGP had all sent communications to Resident Representatives in the field, calling their attention to the country strategy note, and urging prompt follow-up. Resident Representatives had been requested at the country level to bring the resolution to the attention of their Governments. The decision to participate ultimately, of course, rested with the recipient Government, not with the United Nations system.

54. UNDP guiding principles on the programme approach had already been brought in line with system-wide principles and the Secretariat was revising its guidelines and instructions to bring them into conformity with the system-wide position taken by ACC on national execution.

55. The secretariat had been consulting with JCGP partners as well as with other members of the United Nations system with a view to widening the pool of qualified development professionals eligible for appointment as Resident Representatives and Resident Coordinators, and intended to do whatever possible to enhance the transparency of the process. He shared the view of the United Kingdom delegation that there should be more in-depth dialogue between Member States and the United Nations system and suggested that the Economic and Social Council could provide the appropriate forum for such discussions.

56. Half of the countries with United Nations field presence already had field committees, some of which had existed for several years. DPCSD, acting with the full support and collaboration of the UNDP secretariat, would be responsible for issuing instructions to Resident Coordinators. Finally, he endorsed the view

expressed by many speakers that UNDP must actively work towards the implementation of resolution 47/199.

57. The PRESIDENT stated that the general debate was thus concluded. He would take it that the Council wished to authorize a drafting committee to elaborate a draft decision on the implementation of resolution 47/199.

58. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

(a) VENUE OF SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

59. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Governing Council) drew the attention of the Council to the Administrator's report for 1992 (DP/1992/49) which contained a chapter on the venue of sessions, including background, relevant legislation, and detailed information on cost estimates and attendance. Document DP/1993/53 contained additional information regarding attendance and the actual cost of holding sessions at Geneva or New York. Financial data on conference service costs were based on information provided by the United Nations, and reflected the apportionment to UNDP of the cost of the Governing Council in 1991 and 1992.

60. At its thirty-ninth session, the Governing Council had decided to continue its discussion of venue at the current session.

61. Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland) reminded the Council of the long debate on venue that had taken place the year before. His delegation proposed that the discussion of venue should be postponed until after the restructuring was complete.

62. Mr. HORIGUCHI (Japan) reminded the Council of the cost advantage of holding Governing Council meetings in New York, where the UNDP secretariat had its headquarters, adding that the advantage was still greater if delegation travel expenses were taken into account. He agreed with the Swiss observer that the discussion of venue should be postponed until the restructuring was complete.

63. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it that the discussion of venue should be postponed until after the conclusion of the restructuring process.

64. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.